DOLGELLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH.
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ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

For the Year 1951

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Medical Officer of Health:
EVAN WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:
FFRANGCON EVANS, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Gwasg y Dydd Ltd., Dolgelley

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Dolgelley Urban District Council

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Urban Area for 1951.

Dr. R. W. Edwards relinquished the post of District Medical Officer on 31st March, and I wish to thank him for his help in completing this report and for his kind assistance given me since my appointment.

The population of the area for the year (Registrar General's estimated figures) was 2,535, which is a decrease of 169 as compared with the 1950 figure. Total live births for the year was 31, total deaths 42, a death rate which exceeds the birth rate.

Whilst the Council has already erected a number of new houses, there is an urgent need for more, not only to re-house the large number of families who are at present living in overcrowded, damp and unfit houses, but also to re-house the young married couples who live either in rooms or with relatives. Many of these young couples desire children, but owing to their present housing and living conditions are unwilling to have any.

In future when houses are being allocated to tenants, a proportion of the new homes should be given to these young couples who are without homes of their own. This may result in an increase in the number of births, and a reversal of the present birth-death rate ratio.

There have been no outbreaks of any of the more serious infectious diseases, and no cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

I wish to thank the Council for their co-operation, and also Mr. Ff. Evans, the Sanitary Inspector, for his assistance.

I beg to remain,

Yours respectfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Urban District in Acres	1,127
Rateable Value	£11,176
Population (Registrar General's figures—Estimated mid-year)	2,535
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£41 18 0
Number of inhabited houses (according to the Rate Books) at end of year	733

Comparability Factors :

Births	1.16
Deaths	0.96

VITAL STATISTICS

Births :

Total Nett Births (Live and Still)...	32
Births (Live)	31
Births (Still)	1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	12.22

Live Births :

	Males	*Females*
Total	13	18
Legitimate	13	17
Illegitimate	–	1

Illegitimate Birth Rate (Percentage of Total Live Births) ... 3.22

Still Births :

	Males	*Females*
Total	1	–
Legitimate	1	–
Illegitimate	–	–

Deaths :

Total Number 42

Males	*Females*
14	28

Rate per 1,000 population 16.57

Deaths of Infants under One Year :

Total 2

	Males	*Females*
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	–	–

Infant Mortality (Rate per 1,000 Live Births)	64.52
Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Live Births) ...	64.52
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Live Births) ...	Nil

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks :

Total 1

	Males	*Females*
Total	–	1
Legitimate	–	1
Illegitimate	–	–

Maternal Mortality :

Deaths connected with childbirth and pregnancy ... Nil

Deaths from Cancer :

Total 12
Rate per 1,000 population 4.73

Deaths from Tuberculosis :

Total ... ... Nil
Rate per 1,000 population ... ... Nil

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(1) *Public Health Officers of the Authority.*

One Medical Officer of Health
One Sanitary Inspector — holding appointment of Sanitary Inspector-Surveyor.

(2) *Laboratory Facilities.*

Water analysis (Chemical) carried out by Public Analyst, Chester
Water (bacteriological) carried out by the Public Health Laboratory
Milk (tests for cleanliness, for keeping quality and for tuberculosis). Carried out at Public Health Laboratory, Aberystwyth. No charge is made for these later services.

(3) *Ambulance Facilities.*

3 Ambulances stationed in the Urban area.

(4) *Infant Welfare Clinics.*

Held twice monthly at the Wesleyan Chapel Vestry.

(5) *Ante Natal Clinics.*

Held at the Cottage Hospital Dolgelley twice monthly.

(6) *Orthopaedic Clinics.*

Held twice a month at the Cottage Hospital.

(7) *Tuberculosis Clinics.*

Held at the Cottage Hospital twice monthly.

(8) *Diphtheria Immunisation.*

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health. Immunisation of babies and young infants is carried out at the Primary School.

(9) *Hospitals.*

One fully equipped Cottage Hospital.

(10) *Infectious Diseases.*

Total number of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year .....84.

Scarlet Fever — Nil
Bacillary Dysentry — Nil
Whooping Cough — 18
Measles — 66
Infantile Paralysis — Nil
Diphtheria — Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases :

Pulmonary : Total — 2
Males—1. Females—1.

Non-Pulmonary : Total — Nil.
Males—Nil. Females—Nil.

Tuberculosis Deaths :

Pulmonary : Total — Nil.
Males—Nil. Females—Nil.

Non-Pulmonary : Total — Nil.
Males—Nil. Females—Nil.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951 IN AGE GROUPS

Age Periods	*New Cases*				*Deaths*			
	Respiratory		*Non-Respiratory*		*Respiratory*		*Non-Respiratory*	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
2								
5								
10								
15								
20		1						
25	1							
35								
45								
55								
65								
75								
Total	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS CASES

Tuberculosis Register 31st December, 1951

	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Population 1951*	*Per 1,000 Population*	*No. of Houses Built per 1,000 Population*
Bala	5	6	11	1,488	7.3	44.4
Barmouth	4	5	9	2,366	3.8	35.9
Dolgelley	16	14	30	2,535	11.8	20.9
Ffestiniog	75	34	109	6,871	15.8	2.0
Towyn	9	6	15	4,410	3.4	11.8
Deudraeth	26	39	65	6,975	9.3	13.8
Dolgelley Rural ...	29	12	41	9,225	4.4	8.4
Edeyrnion	13	11	24	4,182	5.7	17.7
Penllyn	5	7	12	2,799	4.3	5.7
Pennal	1	8	9	319	2.8	

Causes of Death 1951 :

	M	F
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	–	–
Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–
Cancer Stomach	2	2
„ Lung	–	–
„ Breast	–	2
„ Other sites	–	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	6
Coronary disease, angina	–	2
Hypertension with heart disease	–	1
Other heart diseases	1	3
Other circulatory disease	1	2
Influenza	–	–
Pneumonia	–	–
Bronchitis	1	–
Other diseases of the respiratory system	–	–
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	–
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	–	–
Nephritis and nephrosis	–	–
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	–	1
Motor vehicle accidents	–	–
All other accidents	1	2
Suicide	–	–
Diabetes	–	1

HOUSES BUILT BY COUNCILS FROM 1945 TO DECEMBER, 1951

(Showing rate per thousand of population)

District	*Population (Mid 1951 estimated)*	*Houses Built*	*Rate per 1,000 of Population*
Urban			
Bala	1488	66	44.4
Barmouth	2366	85	35.9
Dolgellcy Urban	2535	53	20.9
Ffestiniog	6871	14	2.0
Towyn	4410	52	11.8
Rural			
Deudraeth	6975	96	13.8
Dolgellcy Rural	9225	78	8.4
Edeyrnion	4182	74	17.7
Penllyn	2799	16	5.7

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Urban Area during May. The total number of persons X-rayed was 635, made up as follows :

Dolgelley Schools	424
Llwyn View Institute	23
Dolgelley General Population	188

There were several complaints received from the public — the chief being the lack of publicity given to the Service. This may have been so, and must be improved. On the part of the general public the service was not patronised as it should have been — there was evidence of indifference and apathy on their part, as can be seen from the low figure of persons who did avail themselves of the service, excluding school children.

Whilst there has been a fall in the annual death rate from tuberculosis, there has been no appreciable decline in the number of new cases notified each year.

Provided the disease is discovered sufficiently early, there is a cure. The fact has not been emphasised adequately — the public are still prone to view the diagnosis of tuberculosis almost as a death sentence. This may explain their apparent attitude of apathy and indifference to the visits of the Mass Radiography Unit. The public are really interested, but they cannot dispel the fear of being labelled as " suffering from tuberculosis."

A fresh, more positive outlook must be adopted by the public towards this disease ; it must be viewed not as a disease which results in death, but as a disease which can be cured.

It is difficult to eliminate, but with their active co-operation much can be achieved. The earlier it is discovered the greater the chances of complete recovery, and the risk of its spread amongst the rest of the family and the community can be lessened.

The public must play their part, and avail themselves of the services of the Mass Radiography Unit. It is to their advantage.

DISINFECTION OF INFECTED ARTICLES AND BEDDING

At the present moment there is no proper apparatus for the disinfection of infected bedding and clothing.

The main disease where disinfection is required is tuberculosis. The number of cases notified each year still remains at a high level.

As it would be an expensive item for each local authority to provide their own disinfector, the District Councils have now agreed to combine for the provision of a disinfector which would be placed centrally within the county. The County Council have been approached regarding assistance, by way of transport and personnel for the collection and delivery of bedding, for which payment would be made.

The request for a disinfector is nothing new — its need was pointed out in 1888. In 1910 the Medical Officer of Health described the disinfection of bedding in the County as being more or less a farce. I believe we are, at last, on the verge of providing a proper disinfection service.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTION 47

(Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention)

No action was found necessary during 1951. A register of elderly persons living alone is now being prepared. There was some difficulty in the ascertainment of the numbers of such persons. They are reported, however, by the District Nurses, Sanitary Inspectors and Officers of the National Assistance Board.

This register, although continually changing and although it cannot possibly be kept completely up to date, does provide an index of the elderly persons living alone, and it does assist in ensuring that regular visits can be paid to these persons.

They cling to their homes, and I feel there would be much local criticism should they be removed under this Act against their will, however great was the need.

From an economic and humane viewpoint, it would be better to allow these persons to continue living in their own homes, and I find that many can manage reasonably well for themselves if provided with a little outside daily help. This can be given if they reside in a town or village.

Persons living in isolated or remote cottages provide a different problem and where no local help is near, then compulsory removal to homes is the only alternative however disagreeable it may be to all concerned.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Year ended 31st December, 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

I have the honour of submitting this my fourth Annual Report.

HOUSING

During the year 1951, eight Council Houses were completed and occupied by tenants who were previously living under unsatisfactory conditions. It is to be regretted that the rate of building new houses in the district has been so low. Three houses built under private licences were commenced during the year and one commenced in 1950 was completed. The scarcity of suitable sites has no doubt accounted for lack of private building and it is to be hoped that when the Council are able to acquire a housing site for their own use they will consider releasing plots to those who desire to build their own homes.

One private house was converted to form three self-contained flats.

Particulars of other action taken are given below :

Defects or nuisances found	65 (premises)
Number abated	60
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal notices	8

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

Statutory notices served	1

Proceedings under Housing Acts :

No. of properties regarding which notices of Time and Place under Section 11 were served	Nil
Voluntary Undertaking accepted ...	Nil

Housing Management :

General maintenance work has been carried out on all Council Houses either by direct labour or by contract. Owing to the present housing shortage it was decided to improve the houses known as Froheulog Cottages by providing new sinks, new grates, yard gulleys, etc. The Cottage connected to Froheulog House was reconditioned and re-let.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 58 :

Although the condition of the property known as Victoria Buildings has been reported from time to time to the Council, it appears that the owners are still finding difficulties which are preventing them from proceeding with the work of reconditioning.

Public Cleansing :

All figures under this heading refer to the financial year ended 31st March, 1952.

Refuse Collection and Disposal :

Twice weekly collections of household refuse on Wednesday and Saturday mornings were made throughout the year from most premises within the district. Some outlying properties only were visited once a week.

Tipping was continued at the site on Talyllyn Road, and attempts were made to control the tip as far as it was practicable.

The Bin Service is still functioning satisfactorily with a total of 170 bins issued under the scheme.

Salvage :

The Council continued to maintain its collection from dwelling-houses and business premises and the income from this material reduced considerably the cost of refuse collection. In addition to waste paper some scrap iron and lead were also salvaged.

The Cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal including Salvage for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1952, was made up as follows :

	£	s.	d.
Materials, Rents, etc.	186	3	1
Labour	532	13	6
Lorry Account	72	1	3
	790	17	10
Salvage Income	559	14	0
Nett Cost	231	3	10

The substantial increase in Salvage Income is reflected in the Nett Cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal : the cost of the service per 1,000 population being £92/9/7 as compared with £132/7/3 for the previous year. The Cost as Rate in the £ was 5/6 as compared with 8/9 the previous year.

The Council also received a prize of £50 from the Waste Paper Contest.

Street Cleansing :

The service included sweeping and gulley cleansing on unclassified roads.

Cost of the service for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1952, amounted to £139/11/2.

Public Conveniences :

The conveniences at Cae Marian and near the County Hall have been maintained and cleansed daily. The Council have taken over for maintenance purposes the conveniences provided by the Trustees of the Marian Mawr.

Cost for the Financial Year ended 31st March, 1952.

	£	s.	d.
Materials	34	16	8
Labour	53	6	0
Total maintenance cost	88	2	8
Income	96	10	10

Disinfection and Disinfestation :

Total No. of houses disinfected — ONE. No action was taken regarding vermin. Bedding was collected and destroyed when requested.

Sewerage :

The Council's sewer at Arddfawr was extended so as to allow connections to be made to it from the houses at Glannant. At the time of writing this report the two houses concerned have been connected to the sewer and the Elsan Closets replaced by Water Closets.

Meat and other Food Inspection :

The Slaughter-house at Arran Road was reopened in October 1951 after reconditioning work had been carried out. The premises are much improved although I understand it is intended to carry out an extension at a later date. The figures relating to meat and other food inspection are given below :

Carcases, Part Carcases and Organs Condemned :

	Beasts	*Calves*	*Sheep*	*Pigs*	*Total*
Carcases including all organs... ...	1	2	10	1	14
Part Hindquarters	–	1	–	–	1
Heads	2	–	–	1	3
Livers	17	–	3	–	20
Hock...	–	–	–	1	1
Rib	–	1	–	–	1

Carcases Inspected and Condemned :

	Cows	Cattle excluding Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	15	90	10	610	7
Number inspected	15	90	10	610	7

All Diseases except Tuberculosis :

Whole carcases condemned	1	–	2	10	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	13	2	3	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	46.7	14.4	40.0	2.1	28.6

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcases condemned	–	–	–	–	–
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	–	–	–	–	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	–	–	–	–	14.3

Diseases :

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Tuberculosis	–	–	–	1	1
Cirrhosis	13	–	3	–	16
Angioma	2	–	–	–	2
Fevered...	–	–	4	1	5
Emaciation	–	–	4	–	4
Abscesses	3	–	–	–	3
Cysts...	1	–	–	–	1
Extensive Bruising	–	2	–	1	3
Oedemia...	–	1	2	–	3
Joint Ill...	–	1	–	–	1
Septic Metritis...	1	–	–	–	1

Other foodstuffs surrendered as being unfit for human consumption included the following :

20 lbs. Marmalade
36 tins Luncheon Meat
89 tins Evaporated Milk
9 tins Greengages
29 bottles Sauce
64 tins Tomatoes
2 boxes Pears
1 tin Pears
72 Savoury Ducks
2 tins Mixed Vegetables
2 tins Grapes
21 tins Fish
29 tins Plums
2 tins Jellied Veal
1 box Sausages
1 jar Apricots
12 tins Stewed Steak
1 tin Gammon

1 tin Spaghetti	11 tins Peas
7 packets Vermicelli	12 tins Beetroot
37 tins Cooked Ham	20 tins Soup
8 lbs. Cooked Ham	15 tins Fruit

Food thus surrendered was removed for destruction.

Model Byelaws for handling, wrapping and delivery of Food :

These byelaws came into operation on the 30th April, 1951. Printed copies of the byelaws were sent to each of the 52 traders carrying on business within the district with a request for their co-operation in the observance of the bye-laws. A public meeting was held to which employers and employees in the food trade and women's organisations in the town were invited. The byelaws were discussed and a number of films were shown by the Central Office of Information.

Water Supply :

The water supply to the town has been sufficient and satisfactory although certain premises on the outskirts have only received intermittent supplies due to the condition of the distributing mains and general leakages. A detailed report has since been prepared with improvements suggested.

One house which was converted into three flats together with a cottage both situated in the Rural District were connected to the mains supply.

Three houses within the district not previously connected to the town's main were supplied with new services. New connections were provided for proposed new houses and the new main on the Froheulog Housing Estate was extended to meet the need of further development.

Sampling :

The results of sampling are shown below :

No.	*Date*	*Sample taken at*	*B. Coli per 100 ml.*	*Faecal Coli per cent.*
1.	19/4/51	Main Supply	0	0
2.	25/9/51	Llwyn View	1,800	1,800
3	25/9/51	Main Supply	1,800	1,800
4.	2/10/51	Llwyn View	35	8
5.	2/10/51	Main Supply	45	8

Milk Supply :

Dealers Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk 1

Persons registered to carry on the trade of Milk Distributors 2

The results of sampling are shown below :

No.	*Date*	*Designation*	*Result*
1.	7/5/51	Raw	Satisfactory
2.	10/5/51	Raw	Satisfactory
3.	23/10/51	Raw	Satisfactory
4.	23/10/51	Raw	Satisfactory
5	29/10/51	Tuberculin Tested	Satisfactory
6.	29/10/51	Raw	Satisfactory

Ice Cream Premises :

No. of manufacturing retailers registered 3

No. of other retailers registered 1

No. of new applications (Sale only) 1
(application granted)

Preserved Food Premises :

An application was received during the year to open a Fish Fryer's Business. The applicant received planning consent but registration has been deferred pending compliance with certain conditions.

Rodent Control :

Work of inspection and destruction was carried out when necessary. A conference of members of the Barmouth and Dolgelley U.D.C's and the Dolgelley R.D.C. was held and a joint scheme was drawn up. A Rodent Officer for the joint use of the above mentioned authorities was appointed and commenced duties in December, 1951.

No. of premises inspected during the year 75

No. of Premises treated 22

Council Property 2

Business Property 3

Private Dwellings 17

Factories :

Fifty-two premises are registered within the Urban area under the Factories Act.

Number inspected re. Sanitary Conveniences 15

Number inspected re. General cleanliness 10

Number inspected re. Means of escape in case of Fire ... 4

Defects found 6

Remedied 5

Civil Building :

One licence was issued during the year for the building of a private dwelling-house.

Licences were issued for repairs and alterations of dwelling-houses, the total cost of the work amounting to £3,470.

Conclusion :

I wish to thank the Council for their continued confidence and the officers for their co-operation throughout the year.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

Ff. EVANS,

San. Insp. and Surveyor.